

Resolutions: A Closer Look

Resolutions have three parts:

- The **Title** should state the subject in a few words. The title may be amended by the Office of the Secretary.
- **“WHEREAS”** Clauses:
 - Provide background and explain why the Synod Council or Synod Assembly is requesting action;
 - Should be few in number and limited to those necessary to understand the reason for the request.
- **“RESOLVED”** Clauses:
 - Should be addressed to the Church Council;
 - Should be in the form of requests. Neither the Synod Council nor the Synod Assembly has authority to direct the Church Council to do something;
 - Should clearly say what the Synod Council or Synod Assembly wants done, how they want it done, when they want it done, and by whom they want it done.

How resolutions are treated depends on by whom and to whom they are submitted:

If a resolution comes to the Synod Council from members of a congregation, the Synod Council will:

- Confirm that the resolution was received by the deadline. Resolutions received after the deadline may be postponed until the next meeting of the Synod Council;
- Consider the appropriateness of the resolution and vote to approve or decline the resolution.

If a resolution comes to the Synod Council from the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council will forward the resolution to the Church Council as directed by the Synod Assembly.

If a resolution comes to the Synod Assembly, whether from members of a congregation or from the Synod Council, the Synod Assembly will:

- Confirm that the resolution was received by the deadline. Resolutions received after the deadline may be forwarded to the Synod Council for consideration;
- Consider the appropriateness of the resolution and vote to approve or decline the resolution. The Synod Assembly may be advised in this consideration by a committee of the assembly (usually referred to as the Reference and Counsel Committee or the Resolutions Committee) that may review the resolution and offer a recommendation to approve or decline the resolution.

What happens to a resolution approved by the Synod Council or Synod Assembly?

- When a resolution is approved by the synod, the complete text should be emailed to the Office of the Secretary at daniel.eppley@elca.org.
- Once reported, the resolution will be reformatted if necessary and sent to the Church Council or the Executive Committee of the Church Council.
 - Resolutions requesting action by the Church Council will be sent to the Church Council.
 - Resolutions requesting that the Church Council direct an office or unit of the churchwide organization to take an action will be sent to the Executive Committee for transmission to the churchwide office or unit.
- The Church Council or Executive Committee of the Church Council will:
 - Consider the appropriateness of the resolution, including staffing and financial implications;
 - Decide what action should be taken in response to the resolution.
- The Office of the Secretary will:
 - Report to the synod bishop the action taken by the Church Council or the Executive Committee of the Church Council in relation to the resolution;
 - Continue to communicate any follow-up actions taken by the Church Council or Executive Committee of the Church Council related to the resolution.